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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

ORGANIZATION OF WORK: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Note by the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The attention of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is drawn to the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, listed in sections II and III below, which are relevant to the work of the Special Committee in 1995.

II. GENERAL RESOLUTIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

2. The Special Committee was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

3. By its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations.

4. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee, 1/ has adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Committee.

5. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, on the basis of a recommendation of the Special Committee, adopted resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980, the annex to which contains the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

6. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, by which it declared the period 1990-2000 the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

7. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, adopted as a Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1). The Plan, inter alia, contained the following provisions:

> "22. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:

"(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory;

"(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

"(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

"23. The Special Committee should continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

"24. The Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies."

8. At its forty-ninth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee, 2/ the General Assembly adopted resolution 49/89 of 16 December 1994 in which it, inter alia:

"5. Approves the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 1994, including the programme of work envisaged for 1995; 3/

"...

"10. Requests the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination and independence and, in particular:

"(a) To formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session;

"(b) To make concrete suggestions which could assist the Security Council in considering appropriate measures under the Charter with regard

to developments in colonial Territories that are likely to threaten international peace and security;

"(c) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

"(d) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence;

"(e) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

"11. Also calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to receive visiting missions to the Territories to secure first-hand information and ascertain the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants;

"12. Further calls upon the administering Powers that have not participated in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its 1995 session;".

9. Prior to the adoption of resolution 49/89, by which the General Assembly approved the proposals contained in the report of the Special Committee regarding the Committee's proposed programme of work for 1995, and resolution 49/90 of 16 December 1994 concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, the Assembly heard an oral statement by the representative of the Secretariat relating to programme budget implications of the recommendations contained in the draft resolutions (see A/49/PV.91).

10. As of 1 January 1995, the Special Committee was composed of the following 24 members: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela and Yugoslavia. The membership in 1994 of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee is given in the annex to the present document.

III. RESOLUTIONS, CONSENSUSES AND DECISIONS CONCERNING SPECIFIC ITEMS CONSIDERED BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN 1994

11. As mentioned in section II above, the General Assembly adopted resolution 49/89 on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Assembly also adopted 10 other resolutions, 2 consensuses and 4 decisions relating to specific items considered by the Committee in 1994 which are listed below. Members will wish to take them into account in drawing up the Committee's programme of work for 1995.

A. Resolutions, consensuses and decisions concerning specific Territories

1. Resolutions

Territory	Resolution No.	Date of adoption
Western Sahara	49/44	9 December 1994
New Caledonia	49/45	9 December 1994
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	49/46 A and B	9 December 1994
Tokelau	49/47	9 December 1994

2. Consensuses

Territory	Decision No.	Date of adoption
Gibraltar	49/420	9 December 1994
Pitcairn	49/421	9 December 1994

3. Decisions

Territory	Decision No.	Date of adoption
East Timor	49/402	23 September 1994
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	49/408	3 November 1994
St. Helena	49/422	9 December 1994

B. Resolutions concerning other items

Title	Resolution No.	Date of adoption
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations	49/39	9 December 1994
Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination	49/40	9 December 1994
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	49/41	9 December 1994
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	49/42	9 December 1994
Dissemination of information on decolonization	49/90	16 December 1994

C. Decision concerning other questions

Title	Decision No.	Date of adoption
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration	49/417	9 December 1994

IV. OTHER RESOLUTIONS RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

12. Other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session that are relevant to the work of the Special Committee are listed below:

Title	Resolution No. and date of adoption
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System	49/6 21 October 1994
Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States	49/14 15 November 1994
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference	49/15 15 November 1994
International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction	49/22 A 2 December 1994 49/22 B 20 December 1994
Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic	49/26 2 December 1994
Law of the Sea	49/28 6 December 1994
Protection and security of small States	49/31 9 December 1994
Questions relating to information	49/38 A and B 9 December 1994
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity	49/64 15 December 1994
Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade	49/92 19 December 1994
Specific measures in favour of island developing countries	49/100 19 December 1994
Dissemination of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development	49/113 19 December 1994
Unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas	49/116 19 December 1994

Title	Resolution No. and date of adoption
Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind	49/120 19 December 1994
Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	49/122 19 December 1994
Agenda for development	49/126 19 December 1994
Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	49/145 23 December 1994
Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination	49/146 23 December 1994
Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination	49/148 23 December 1994
Use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	49/150 23 December 1994
Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights	49/151 23 December 1994
Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime	49/159 23 December 1994
Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women	49/161 23 December 1994
International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking	49/168 23 December 1994
Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes	49/180 23 December 1994
Strengthening of United Nations action in the human rights field through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity	49/181 23 December 1994

Title	Resolution No. and date of adoption
Right to development	49/183 23 December 1994
Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms	49/186 23 December 1994
Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action	49/208 23 December 1994
International Decade of the World's Indigenous People	49/214 23 December 1994
Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1996-1997	49/217 23 December 1994
Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995	49/219 23 December 1994
Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995	49/220 A to C 23 December 1994
Pattern of conferences	49/221 A to D 23 December 1994

Notes

1/ See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to forty-ninth sessions. For the most recent, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/46/23); ibid., Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/47/23); ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/48/23); and ibid., Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/49/23).

2/ A/49/23 (Parts I-VIII); to be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/49/23).

3/ A/49/23 (Part I), chap. I, sect. J; to be issued subsequently as part of Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/49/23).

Annex

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN 1994

Working Group

Committee officers:

Papua New Guinea (Chairman)
Cuba (Vice-Chairman)
Sierra Leone (Vice-Chairman)
Syrian Arab Republic (Rapporteur)

Officers of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance:

Tunisia (Chairman)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (Rapporteur)

Other members:

Congo
Fiji
Trinidad and Tobago

Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance (24 members)

Afghanistan
Bulgaria
Chile
China
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Ethiopia
Fiji
Grenada
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Mali
Papua New Guinea (Chairman)
Russian Federation
Sierra Leone
Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
United Republic of Tanzania
Venezuela
Yugoslavia

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Chairman

1. Subsidiary bodies

1. Having regard to the expected workload of the Special Committee for the current session and in the light of past experience, it is suggested that the Special Committee maintain the Working Group as a steering committee, as well as the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, subject to any modification in its membership that it might deem appropriate.

2. Allocation of items and procedure for consideration

2. Annexed to the present note is a list of matters pending for consideration by the Special Committee during the year, together with an indication of the procedure that the Committee may wish to adopt. An indication is also given of the suggested allocation with regard to each item.

3. It is understood in that connection that, in their examination of the items allocated for their respective consideration, the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies should take into account the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session that are relevant to the work of the Committee, as listed in the note by the Secretary-General (A/AC.109/L.1827). It is also understood that they should continue to be guided by the relevant provisions of the resolution adopted by the Assembly on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration (resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990), as well as the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 on the basis of proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the Decade (A/46/634/Rev.1).

3. Order of priority for consideration of items

4. The Chairman will hold consultations with regard to the order of priority to be given for consideration of items in plenary meetings.

5. It is also his intention to hold consultations on specific activities envisaged under the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

6. In the meantime, subject to the availability of the working papers prepared by the Secretariat, it is suggested that the Subcommittee should conduct its substantive work in accordance with the schedule of meetings as approved by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session (A/49/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 52).

4. Recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

7. In accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 of 29 November 1979, and in the light of past experience, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to follow the procedure adopted at its 1982 session, 1/ in connection with the formulation of its recommendations to the Assembly at its fiftieth session.

5. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

8. At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly decided to waive rules 67 and 108 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly in order to permit meetings to be declared open and debates to proceed without the presence of the quorum required under those rules. The Assembly also decided that morning meetings should begin at 10 a.m.

9. As those measures have further enhanced the effective utilization of conference-servicing resources, it is suggested that the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies continue to follow the same procedure. It should be understood that, in accordance with the rules cited, the presence of a majority of members would continue to be required for any decisions to be taken.

10. In the same context, the Subcommittee is kindly requested, as far as possible, to schedule meetings only when a sufficient number of speakers will ensure full utilization of the time allotted and also to minimize the wastage in conference resources resulting from the cancellation of scheduled meetings. The Subcommittee is requested to continue the practice of holding extensive consultations and informal meetings whenever possible, with a view to reducing the number of formal meetings to a minimum.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/37/23/Rev.1), chap. I, paras. 60-69.

Annex

MATTERS PENDING FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE DURING 1995

Question	Allocation	Procedure for consideration
East Timor	Plenary	As separate item
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	"	"
Gibraltar	"	"
New Caledonia	"	"
Western Sahara	"	"
Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico (A/49/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 41)	"	As appropriate
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions (General Assembly resolution 49/39)	"	As separate item
Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination (General Assembly resolution 49/40)	"	"
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (General Assembly decision 49/417)	"	"
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 49/41)	"	"

Question	Allocation	Procedure for consideration
American Samoa	Subcommittee	To be decided by Subcommittee
Anguilla	"	"
Bermuda	"	"
British Virgin Islands	"	"
Cayman Islands	"	"
Guam	"	"
Montserrat	"	"
Pitcairn	"	"
St. Helena	"	"
Tokelau	"	"
Turks and Caicos Islands	"	"
United States Virgin Islands	"	"
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (General Assembly resolution 46/181 and report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1, annex))	Plenary/ Working Group	As appropriate
Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters	Working Group	"
Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable	"	"
Pattern of conferences (General Assembly resolution 49/221)	"	"
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories (para. 11 of General Assembly resolution 49/89)	Plenary/ Subcommittee	"
Dissemination of information on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 49/90)	"	"

Question	Allocation	Procedure for consideration
Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories	Plenary/ Subcommittee	As appropriate
Matters relating to the small Territories (para. 10 (d) of General Assembly resolution 49/89)	"	To be taken into consideration in the examination of specific Territories
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (art. 15 of the Convention)	"	"
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 49/42)	"	"
Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization (para. 10 (c) of General Assembly resolution 49/89)	"	"